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*Richard E. Dodge*

# DODGE'S GEOGRAPHY OF ARKANSAS

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# THE GEOGRAPHY OF ARKANSAS

By JOHN H. HINEMON, *former State Superintendent of Schools, Arkansas*

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## I. ARKANSAS AS A WHOLE

**Location and Size.** Arkansas (pronounced Ärk'ən-sä'), one of the Southern States of the Mississippi Basin, lies between the parallels of 33 degrees and 36 degrees 30 minutes north latitude. The state extends westward from the Mississippi River about 250 miles, and the distance from its northern to its southern boundary line is about 240 miles; in shape, therefore, it is almost a square. (Fig. 2.) It contains an area of 53,850 square miles, of which 53,045 square miles are land. This makes Arkansas twenty-third in size among the states of the Union, its area being about one-fifth that of Texas and about the same as that of Alabama and North Carolina.

**Surface.** All the principal rivers of the state run either in a southerly or south-easterly direction. (Fig. 4.) This shows us that the general surface of Arkansas is an inclined plane with its base along the rivers of the south and east and extending upward toward the mountains of the northwest. These mountains are a part of the Ozark Plateau. (Adv. Geog., Fig. 191.) North of the Arkansas River and extending from the western boundary to the Black River are the Boston Mountains. In the western part of the state the Magazine Mountains lie south of the Arkansas, while still farther south are the Fourche Mountains. The scenery throughout all the mountainous section of northwestern Arkansas and along the White



FIG. 1. A scene in Marion County in the picturesque mountain region of northwestern Arkansas.







FIG. 2. A political map of Arkansas.

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River above Batesville is remarkable for its beauty. (Figs. 1 and 5.) It is a region that has much of variety. There are rugged mountains, primeval forests, picturesque streams, and wide areas of upland farm and fertile valley lands.

Mount Magazine (Fig. 6), in Logan County, with an altitude of 2,823 feet, is the highest elevation in the state (Fig. 3) and is said to be the highest point between the Rockies and the Alleghenies.

The lowlands or plains of the southeast are a part of the Gulf Coastal Plain. (Adv. Geog., Fig. 191.) Long ages ago these lands formed a part of the basin of the extended Gulf of Mexico. Gradually the region rose, the waters of the ocean slowly retreated, and at the same time the White, the Arkansas, and the Red rivers became tributary to the extended trunk of the Mississippi. In Arkansas the old coast line of the Gulf is almost identical with the present line of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway, extending from Texarkana to Cairo, and all that portion of the state between this line and the Mississippi was covered at one time by the waters of the extended Gulf of Mexico.

The uplands of Arkansas constitute about two-fifths of the whole area of the state, and in this region are found the best fruit-producing sections. The soil of the lowlands is made up largely of rich alluvium on which cotton thrives luxuriantly, so that this is one of the best cotton-producing regions of the country. (Fig. 20.)

**Drainage.** For the most part Arkansas is drained by five principal water courses: the Red, Arkansas, Ouachita, White, and St. Francis rivers. The waters of the state flow in a general direction toward the southeast and reach the Gulf of Mexico by way of the Mississippi River. With the exception of the Ouachita, these five rivers all flow directly into the Mississippi, which forms the entire eastern boundary of Arkansas. (Fig. 2.) These streams have numerous tributaries, and Arkansas has altogether more miles of navigable water ways in proportion to its area than any other state in the Union.



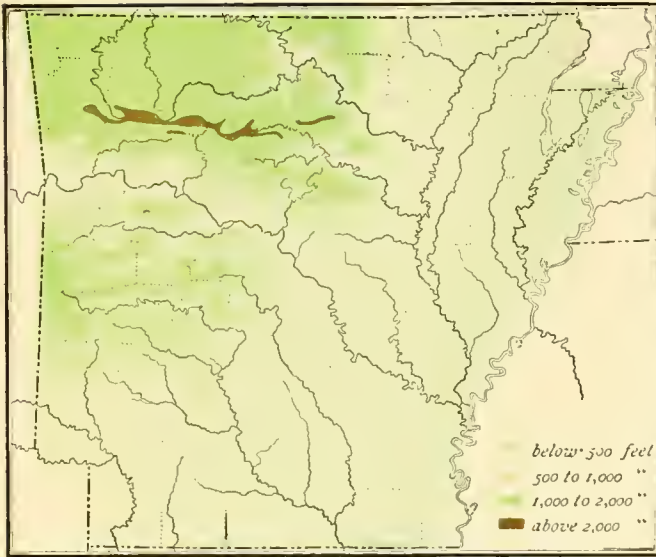


FIG. 3. A physical map of Arkansas.

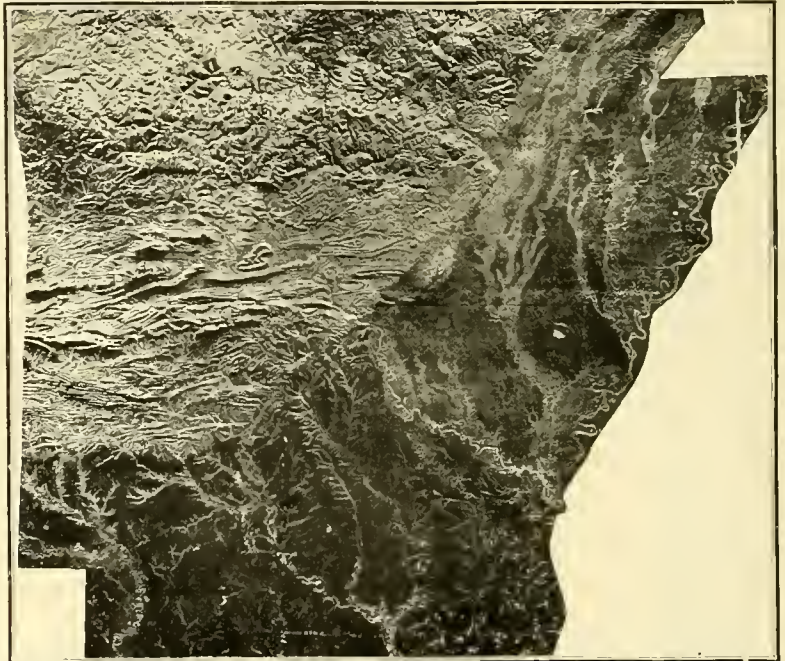
The Red River rises in Texas amid the rich red loams of the Llano Estacado (Adv. Geog., Fig. 189), and because of heavy and sudden rainfalls its waters are heavily laden with a red sediment. This gives the stream the peculiar color to which it owes its name. The Arkansas River rises in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Its waters also carry a large amount of sediment, which in time of high water is deposited throughout the flood plains and gives to the bottom lands great fertility and productiveness. Ordinarily the overflows of the Red and the Arkansas rivers are not caused by local rains, but are the result of weather conditions near their sources.

The river basins contain many "oxbow" lakes that have been formed by changes in the courses of the streams. (Adv. Geog., Fig. 49.) At each bend of a river there is constantly a tendency to cut away the outer bank. If in course of time, the

water cuts through the bank, it forms what is called a "chute" or "cut-off." Frequently the ends of the old river beds are closed by silt and completely separated from the new channel, and thus "oxbow" lakes are formed.

The Arkansas (Fig. 9) is a very sluggish stream; its bed is filled with shoals and sand bars, and where it comes in contact with the waters of the Mississippi a bar has gradually been formed across its mouth. About seventy years ago the waters of the Arkansas cut their way to the White at a point about sixty miles above the mouth of that river. Arkansas River boats are now able to pass from the Mississippi into the White through this "cut-off"

and thence into the waters of the Arkansas. This "chute" formed an island which contains an area of more than fifty thousand acres, is densely wooded, and in great part is subject to overflow. This island is an extremely wild region and a great resort for sportsmen.



Reproduced from John C. Branner's Geological Relief Map of Arkansas, courtesy of A. B. Purdie & Co.  
FIG. 4. A relief map of Arkansas.



The White River (Fig. 8) rises in the extreme northwestern part of the state and, with many meanders, flows in a southeasterly direction toward the Mississippi. Dams built across the river near Batesville (Fig. 7), render this beautiful stream navigable throughout the year as far as Buffalo City, Marion County. From its source to the city of Batesville the current of White River is swift; in the lower part of its course it winds slowly through a low alluvial valley with a soil remarkable for its fertility. White River and its tributaries are supplied with water which pours from the rocky hillsides in streams fed by a multitude of springs. All these rivers are noted for their beautifully transparent waters, and it is due to this characteristic that the principal one owes its name.

The St. Francis River rises in St. Francis County, Missouri. Separating Clay and Greene counties from Dunklin County, Missouri, the river then follows a sinuous course southward through the counties of Craighead, Poinsett, Cross, and St. Francis and enters the Mississippi



*Courtesy of the Missouri Pacific Railway Company*

FIG. 5. *Handford Bluff, near Batesville. These mountain-like deposits are of limestone and furnish excellent material for building and paving purposes.*

about ten miles above the city of Helena. This stream is navigable for about two hundred miles and passes through one of the richest farming sections of the state.

Millions of acres of rich lands in the basin of this stream are protected from overflow by the St. Francis Levee, which was completed in 1905. This levee is more than two hundred miles in extent

and was built at a cost that exceeded four million dollars.

In the eastern part of the state are numerous smaller streams and bayous. Many of these are filled by water which "backs" into their channels from the Mississippi River and its larger tributaries during the time of high water. Throughout this section are found large numbers of "oxbow" lakes, which are filled with water during seasons of overflow and remain as lakes when the waters recede.

Arkansas is one of the best-watered states in the Union and springs of excellent water exist in almost every locality. In the northwestern part of the state large and beautiful springs are abundant, and in some the flow is so great that they furnish



FIG. 6. *A valley in the Magazine Mountains. Above the valley rises Mount Magazine, the loftiest summit in the state. Rugged ranges, broad valleys, and beautiful streams characterize this entire region.*



FIG. 7. *The Government Dam across the White River near Batesville.*

power used in operating mills and factories. Laster Spring and Big Spring in Independence County, Rush Spring in Marion County, Mill Spring in Stone County, and the spring at Marble City, Newton County, are all noted for their size and their unusual volume of water. Mammoth Spring, Fulton County, which owes its name to its enormous discharge of water, furnishes abundant water power. (Fig. 10.) Its flow remains almost uniform throughout the year, and its discharge is said to be 9,000 barrels per minute. The waters of Mammoth Spring are especially adapted to the culture of bass. For this reason a fish hatchery (Fig. 11) has recently been placed here with a view to re-stocking the streams of the state with bass from this establishment. Silver Spring and Siloam Springs (Fig. 50) in Benton County are among the most beautiful springs in Arkansas. Silver Spring is the source of a clear stream of water from two to three feet

deep and from six to ten feet wide. Eureka Springs is a much frequented resort. Big Spring, in Washington County, near Fayetteville, has an output of about two and one-half million gallons in twenty-four hours.

Blue Spring, eight miles from Eureka Springs, Carroll County, has a basin about forty feet in diameter. It is said to be several hundred feet deep, which accounts for the deep blue appearance of its water.



FIG. 9. *One of the great bridges spanning the Arkansas River at Little Rock.*

**Climate.** Owing to the position of the state the climate is modified by winds from the Gulf of Mexico. Hence the winters are never very cold and the summers are warm. Differences in altitude cause a considerable range of temperature between the southeast

and northwest at all seasons. (Adv. Geog., Figs. 82 and 84.) The mean annual temperature (Fig. 12) for 1904 was 60.5 degrees; the mean temperature for winter was 41.2 degrees; and that for summer 77.1



FIG. 8. *A view of the White River. In the distance may be seen Devall Bluff, one of the most flourishing towns in the valley of the White and the seat of growing industries.*



degrees. The highest temperature recorded was 105 degrees and the lowest 5 degrees below zero, giving an absolute range for the year of 110 degrees. During the growing season the climate is such that agricultural and orchard products in great variety can be produced abundantly throughout the larger part of the state. The rainfall (Fig. 13) in Arkansas is nearly as great as in any part of the eastern United States with the exception of the areas along the Gulf coast and about the summits of the Appalachians. (Adv. Geog., Fig. 188.) The rainfall for the year 1904 was 43.45 inches. The snow fall was slight, only 3.5 inches.

**Vegetation.** Originally Arkansas was one of the most heavily-timbered states in the Union, and to-day forests still cover more than three-fourths of its total area. The early settlers, were extremely careless in their use of these valuable resources, and large areas have been deforested. There is now, however, a growing tendency to check the useless

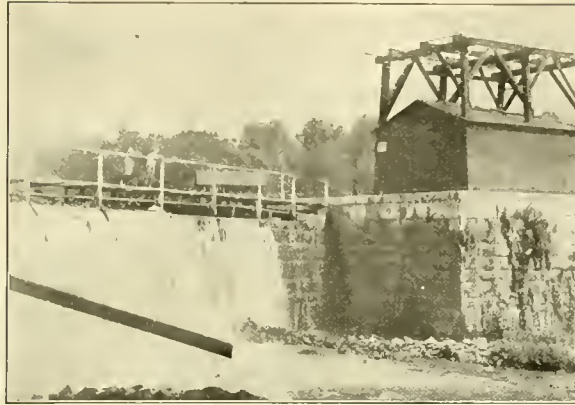


FIG. 10. *The dam across Spring River. The source of this river is Mammoth Spring.*

waste and destruction of valuable timber in this state as there is in all parts of the country, where the need for saving the limited timber supply is recognized. In Arkansas the saving of the timber is made easier because most of her forests, especially those of the pine belt, have unusual self-renewing qualities. The

Arkansas National Forest, of 1,073,955 acres has recently been established. It is situated in the western part of the state and farther east than any other National Forest. A large area has also been withdrawn from settlement as the proposed Ozark National Forest.

Every variety of staple hard and soft wood flourishes in Arkansas. It is said 130 kinds of trees are found in this state; among these are included the black walnut, hickories, cedar, oaks, cypress, pine, cottonwood, elm, red gum, sycamore, beech, black locust, and maple. Oak, walnut, hickory, and ash of the finest grades are abundant. The hard woods are found chiefly north of the Arkansas River and are unsurpassed in variety and quality.

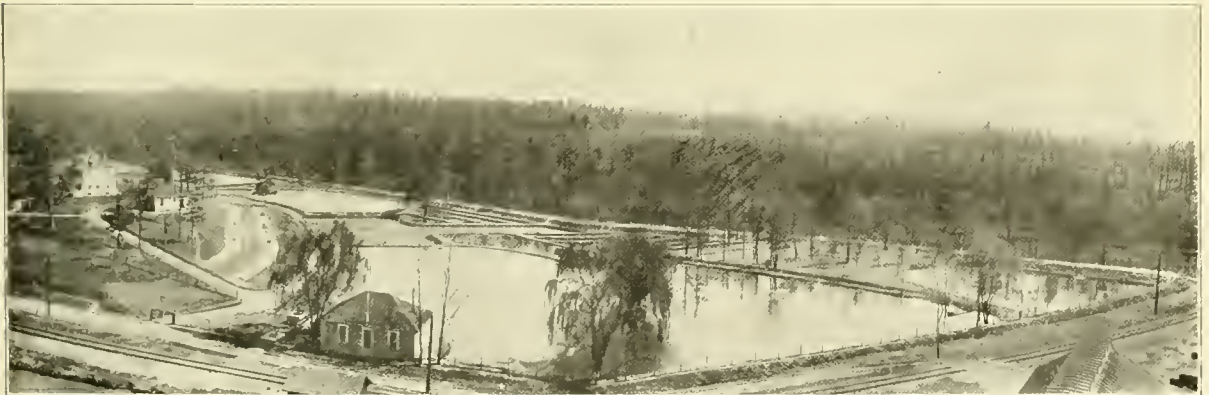


FIG. 11. *The United States Government fish hatchery at Mammoth Spring. The large volume of cool, pure water found here makes this an ideal situation for the breeding of fish, especially bass. The young fish are to be distributed among the various streams of the state.*



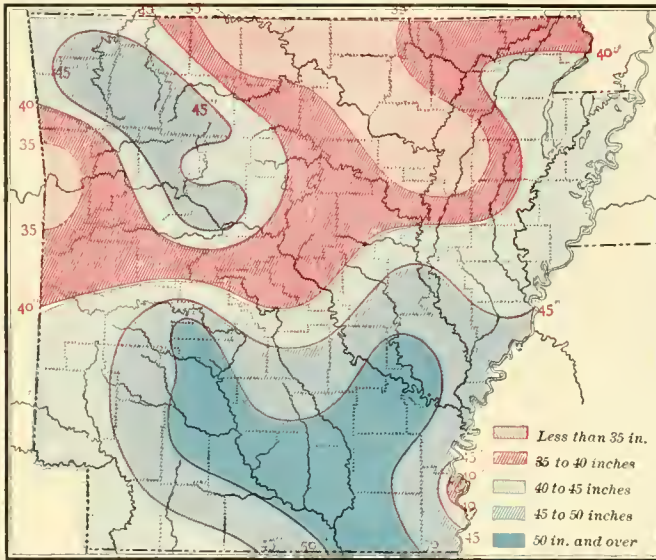


FIG. 12. The mean annual temperature and rainfall of Arkansas.

In the southern and southeastern parts of the state are large areas of magnificent yellow pine timber.

**Animal Life.** When the state was first explored and settled, wild animals were abundant. Large buffalo licks, so-called because the buffaloes licked the earth for the salt which it contained, are found in the southeastern part of the state. Bears, wolves, and panthers were numerous, especially in the bottom lands of the Mississippi and its tributaries. Great herds of deer were found everywhere in the state. Swan, geese, ducks, and other wild fowl were common on all the streams and lakes. Swan Lake, in Jefferson County, owes its name to the fact that swan in large numbers then frequented the locality. Small game was plentiful everywhere. The buffalo has disappeared before the advance of civilization, and other large game is found only occasionally. Much of this wild life was recklessly slaughtered, and strong efforts are now being made by the state to preserve and protect game, fish, and birds. Some attention is also

being given to the hatching of fish with a view to re-stocking the streams of the state with bass and other varieties of food fish. In 1903 a law was passed prohibiting the shipping of game or fish out of the state, a measure that will greatly aid in the protection and preservation of the game.

**Native Peoples.** When European explorers first visited the Mississippi Valley, two great tribes of Indians, the Osages and Quapaws, lived in the region now comprising the state of Arkansas. The territory north of the Arkansas River was occupied by the Osages, while the Quapaws—called *Akansea* by the French—were scattered over the southern portion of the state. Under treaties

made in 1808 and 1818 the Osages ceded their lands to the Government and moved farther west, and in 1824 the Quapaws exchanged their Arkansas lands for a grant in northern Louisiana.

In 1817 the Cherokees migrated from Tennessee to Arkansas and for eleven years lived in the northwestern part of that territory. In 1820 the Choctaws came into the

territory from Alabama and Mississippi, settling in the southwest. There was almost constant trouble with the settlers and the Choctaws,

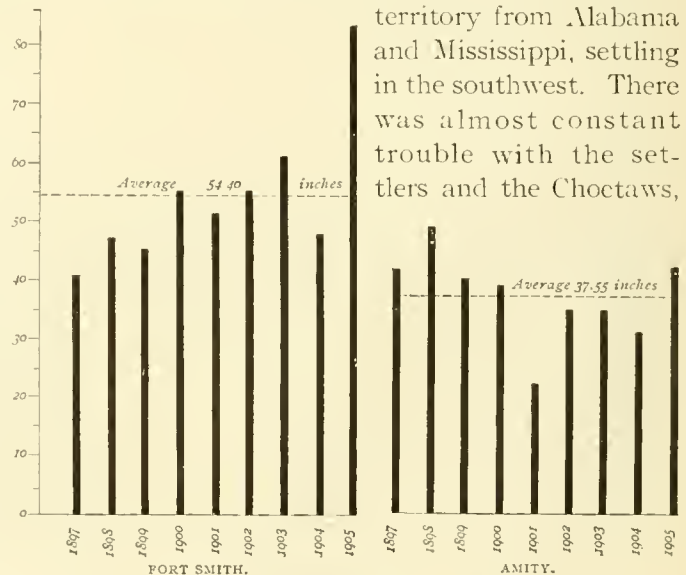


FIG. 13. The average annual rainfall of Amity and Fort Smith from 1897 to 1905.



From a photograph. Courtesy of Mrs. E. H. McDaniel.  
FIG. 14. Augustus Hill Garland.  
*A gifted citizen of Arkansas  
and one of the most distinguished statesmen  
of his day.*

in 1825, readily consented to exchange their land for a large grant farther west.

**History.** Early in the sixteenth century DeSoto, the famous Spanish explorer, spent ten months in the region now included in Arkansas. Entering the territory a short distance above the mouth of the Arkansas he traveled in a

Mississippi Valley, and on their maps the Indians of this region were designated as the Arkansas. A few years later (1682) LaSalle, with Tonti, explored this region and took possession of the country for France.

Louisiana remained under French rule until the close of the French and Indian War (1763),

when it was ceded to Spain. In 1800 Spain ceded the territory to France and in 1803 it



From an old engraving.  
FIG. 16. Hernando DeSoto the  
*discoverer of the Mississippi  
and the first white man to  
visit the region now  
known as Arkansas.*

northwesterly direction, probably as far as the Ozarks in what is now Madison County, then southwest to the hot springs near the Ouachita. In 1542 DeSoto descended the Mississippi River to the point where it receives the Red, and here on the banks of the great river he died.<sup>1</sup> After DeSoto no white men visited this section for a period of one hundred and thirty years. In 1673 Marquette and Joliet explored the lower Missis-

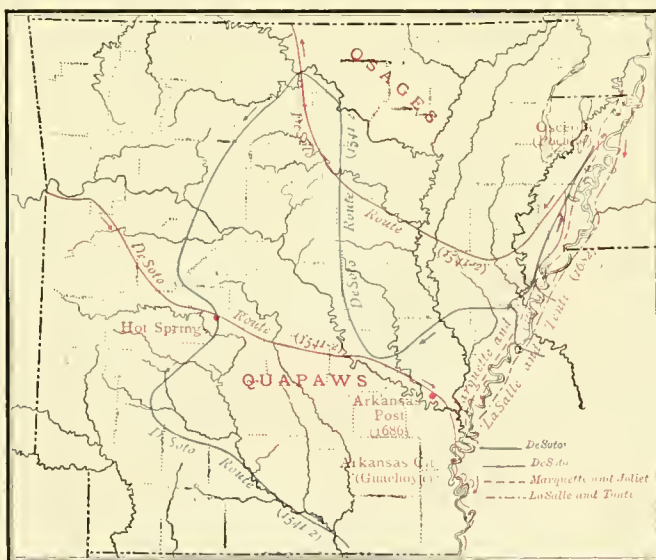


FIG. 15. *A historical map showing the areas originally occupied by the Indians and the earliest explorations and settlements made in Arkansas.*

<sup>1</sup> This route and the statement as to DeSoto's death have long been accepted by many careful historians. They are based, it is claimed, on the original papers of "The Gentleman of Elvas" and those of DeBiedma. They do not agree, however, with later interpretations of these papers. Theodore H. Lewis, of the Mississippi Historical Society, has edited the original papers of "The Gentleman of Elvas" for "Spanish Explorers in the Southern United States", published in 1907. The editor's notes throw so much additional light upon the Expedition of DeSoto that in the above

map we give, in addition to the usual route, one laid down in accordance with the results of his research. In pages 227-233 of the work just mentioned is recorded the arrival, illness, and death of DeSoto at the Indian town, Guachoya. Of this town Mr. Lewis says: "Guachoya was in the vicinity of Arkansas City, in Desha County, and possibly at or near the large mound one mile to the northward." On the other hand, "Publications of Arkansas Historical Association" says (Vol. I, p. 128): "DeSoto died and was buried at Helena."

was purchased by the United States.

The District of Arkansas was established and a judge and commandant were appointed for the Post. In 1818 Arkansas Territory was organized, and James Miller, a soldier of the War of 1812, was appointed Governor. In 1836 Arkansas was admitted as a state.

Arkansas seceded from the Union in



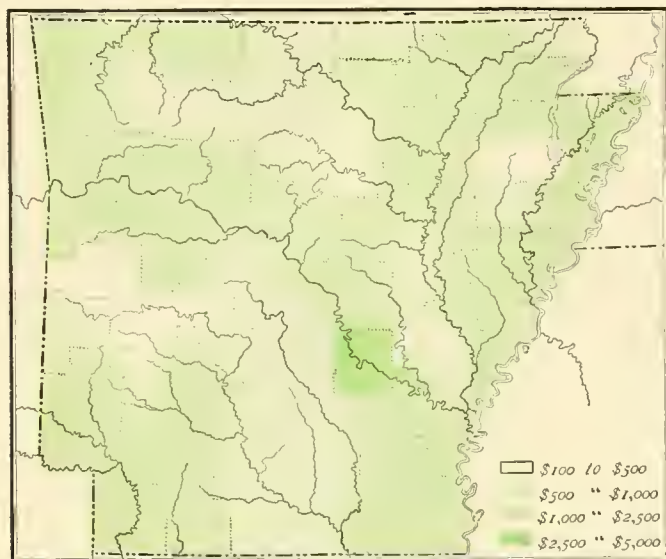


FIG. 17. The value of farm products per square mile in Arkansas, census of 1900.

1861, and during the Civil War several important battles were fought within the border of the state. The principal engagements took place at Pea Ridge, Helena, Pine Bluff, and Prairie Grove. The state furnished about 55,000 troops for the Confederate service.

In 1868 Arkansas was re-admitted into the Union. The period from the close of the War Between the States to the adoption of the present constitution was known as the "Reconstruction." During the war with Spain (1898), Arkansas showed her loyalty and devotion to the Union by promptly responding to the call for troops with a full quota of volunteers, furnishing two regiments of soldiers.

**Settlement.** The first white settlement was made by Tonti and twenty-two Frenchmen, in 1686, at Arkansas Post. (Fig. 15.) In 1718, encouraged by John Law, a number of Germans and negroes settled near the Post. No other settlements were made in this region for many years, and at the time of the Louisiana Purchase there were less than three hundred white people in the area now included in Arkansas.

When Arkansas entered the Union the thirty-five counties, into which it had been divided, contained a population of 47,700.

**Agriculture.** Owing to the favorable climate and the great variety and fertility of its soils, Arkansas is preëminently an agricultural state. (Figs. 19 and 23.) Its location among the Southern States of the Mississippi Basin and its varying elevations—ranging from 125 to 2,823 feet above sea level—favor a wide variety of products; every crop known between the Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico may be grown here.

Although a larger acreage is given over to corn, cotton in value is by far the most important crop (Fig. 18)

grown, and on several occasions Arkansas has won the premium over the world on both long and short staple cotton raised in the fertile lowlands of the south and southeast. The prairie lands in the central part of the state are now being utilized for the cultivation of rice. (Figs. 25, 26, and 27.) In the alluvial sections corn and sugar cane are grown. While fruit of the best quality is produced

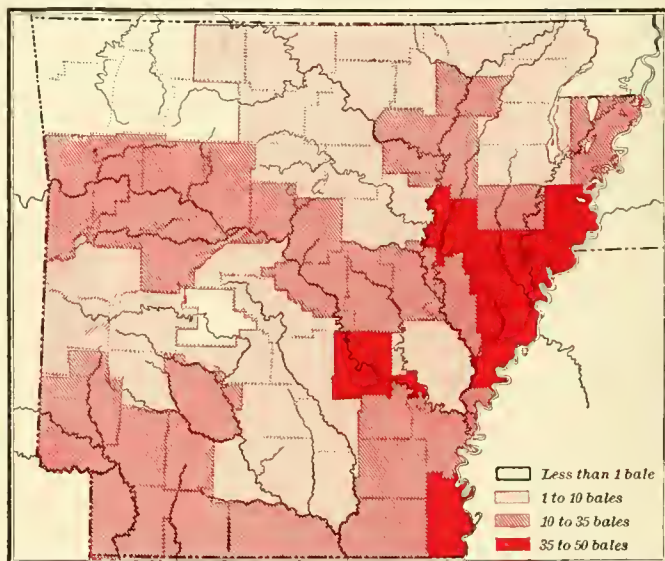


FIG. 18. The production of cotton per square mile in Arkansas, census of 1900.





FIG. 19. *The home of an Arkansas planter.*

in all parts of the state, the mountainous section of the northwest is especially adapted to the production of berries, peaches, and apples, and is sometimes called "The Land of the Big Red Apple."

In 1900, the total value of all farm crops (Fig. 17) in Arkansas was \$56,803,000, and of this sum \$28,053,000, or about one-half the total amount, was derived from the sale of cotton. At the same time the value of the orchard products was \$1,250,000, and that of small fruits and grapes, \$700,000.

In 1906 more than 2,051,000 acres were planted to cotton (Figs. 20 and 21), and the yield of 916,000 bales, valued at about \$45,000,000, gave Arkansas sixth place among the cotton-producing states of the Union and fifth among those of the Southern Mississippi Basin group.

The counties leading in importance are Jefferson, Lonoke, Crittenden, Lee, and Pulaski.

Nearly one-half of the total acreage under crops is devoted to raising corn (Fig. 22), chiefly for home consumption. The rich, deep soils of the bottom lands in the northwestern part of the state and the alluvial



FIG. 21. *Evening in the cotton field. Weighing the day's pick.*

soils of the eastern lowlands yield large crops of this important cereal. Washington, Benton, Independence, Madison, and Randolph, in the order named, are the most important corn-producing counties.

Arkansas stands twelfth among the states of the Union in the production of corn. In 1906 a total area of 2,237,000 acres was devoted to this cereal. About 52,800,000 bushels, or an average of 15,107 bushels of corn per square mile, were raised.



FIG. 20. *Picking cotton in a field in Mississippi County. The deep alluvial soils of this county yield 1,800 pounds of cotton per acre.*



FIG. 22. A field of corn in Franklin County.

The corn crop of that year reached a valuation of very nearly \$25,000,000.

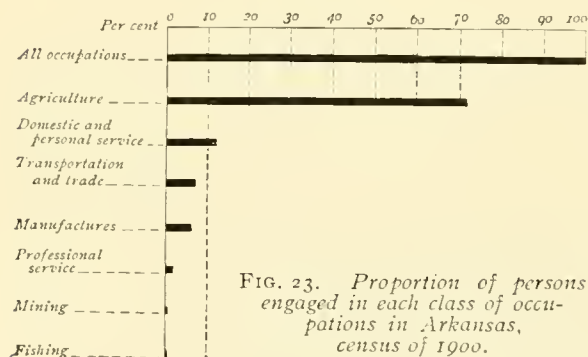


FIG. 23. Proportion of persons engaged in each class of occupations in Arkansas, census of 1900.

In the upland regions, where there is a good clay subsoil, wheat (Fig. 52), oats (Fig. 24), barley, and rye are grown successfully. The Arkansas wheat crop in 1906 was valued at \$1,436,400 and her oats crop at \$1,539,000. Each year sees an astonishing increase in the area devoted to rice. In 1906 the rice acreage was ten times as great as in the preceding year while the yield of this grain advanced from 11,340 to 113,490 bushels.

Grasses and forage crops are grown in almost all parts of the state. The valleys of the Red, White, and Mississippi rivers are admirably suited to the growth of alfalfa, or

lucerne, and there is a large yield of these valuable forage crops in Mississippi, Independence, and Hempstead counties. Sorghum is also widely grown as a forage crop and, to a limited extent, Kaffir corn which belongs to the sorghum family of grasses. Large quantities of wild hay are also harvested, especially in Arkansas, Lonoke, and Prairie counties.

**Horticulture.** In Arkansas every variety of temperate-climate fruit (Fig. 29) thrives and yields abundantly. Apples (Fig. 28) are produced in in-

creasing quantities in all the mountainous and upland sections of the state. In 1900 there were about seven and a half million apple trees in the state; since then wide areas have been planted to this fruit and the number is far larger. Washington and Benton counties are credited with the largest yield.

Climate, soil, and drainage all favor the growth of the peach, and commercial peach orchards are now found in many localities. Large shipments of peaches of superior quality are sent to the great markets of the country, the Arkansas peach now rivaling in perfection the widely-known Arkansas apple. With the increased production of peaches

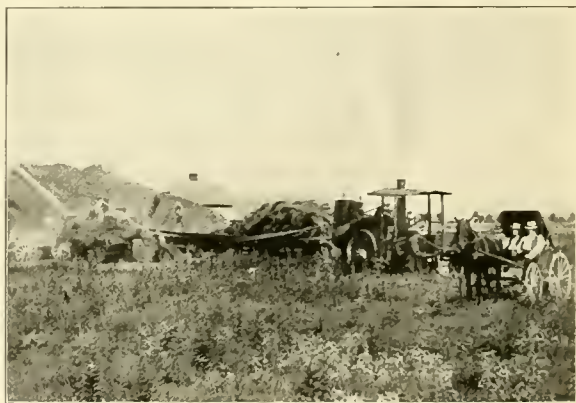


FIG. 24. Threshing oats on a great grain farm.



flourishing canning factories have been established where large quantities of the fruit are canned and preserved for home consumption and for shipment.

While pears, plums, and grapes are grown in lesser quantities for shipment, the cultivation of the strawberry as a commercial product has reached large proportions. In 1900 no less than 12,667,740 quarts of strawberries (Fig. 30) were harvested.

The watermelon (Fig. 51) and the cantaloupe thrive and yield abundantly in many sections. Because of its superiority the Arkansas watermelon has won a prominent place in the markets of the country, and has



FIG. 26. *Irrigating a rice field. Wells sunk to depths of from 100 to 150 feet afford an inexhaustible supply of water for irrigating the crop.*



FIG. 25. *Threshing rice in Lonoke County. The fertile prairie lands of this county yield from forty to seventy-five bushels of rice per acre.*

become a leading and profitable crop in the state and one that is constantly increasing in acreage.

**Live Stock.** The mild climate, vast stretches of corn and pasture lands, and many fine pure springs and running streams of water all favor the live-stock industry. In recent years much attention has been given to the breeding of cattle, horses, sheep (Fig. 31), and hogs. First-class saddle and driving horses are bred in many sections and good draft horses are displacing oxen in lumbering regions.

Cattle thrive in every part of the state and fine herds of the best breeds are now

to be seen in many localities. Cattle raising is one of the chief industries in Prairie and also in Conway County and is receiving increasing attention in many other counties. Near the larger cities where cotton-seed oil mills are located, large numbers of cattle are fattened (Fig. 37) annually on the cotton-seed meal and hulls.

Hogs have always been of importance in Arkansas because the food furnished by the great forests of mast-bearing trees, and the mild climate which permitted the stock to live on the ranges, made it possible to raise them cheaply. Much has been done to improve the stock and Arkansas now raises large numbers of hogs (Fig. 33) that compare favorably with the



FIG. 27. *Harvesting the crop of an Arkansas rice field.*





FIG. 28. An Arkansas apple orchard.

standard stock of great hog-raising states like Kansas and Iowa.

Natural conditions encourage the raising of poultry (Fig. 32) and each year marks a steady gain in this industry. In 1900 there were in Arkansas more than 5,000,000 chickens, 370,000 geese, 180,000 ducks, and 140,000 turkeys while the production of eggs reached 25,500,000 dozens. In the same year bees were kept on 178,600 farms and nearly 1,500,000 pounds of honey were produced.

**Vegetables and Nuts.** Mild winters and quick-producing soils make it possible to market vegetables early in the season. For this reason wherever transportation facilities connect localities with great trade centers vegetables are a profitable crop, and market gardening is becoming a leading industry. In many localities the long growing

season permits the raising of two crops of vegetables from the same land. Irish potatoes are grown extensively in the valleys of the Arkansas, White, and Ouachita. The value of the crop in 1906 exceeded \$1,116,000. Sebastian County leads all others in production of potatoes, marketing each year more than a quarter of a million bushels. The sweet potato flourishes everywhere and is planted on every farm and in every garden. Jefferson County with a crop of nearly 55,000 bushels has the largest yield. In the plateau sections of the state increasing areas are devoted to onions and cabbage, both of which are exceedingly profitable crops.

The sandy soils of the state offer ideal conditions for the growth of the peanut, which may be classed among the minor crops and steadily grows in favor. It affords excellent food for hogs. The pecan, black walnut, filbert, and hazelnut flourish and yield large quantities of nuts. English walnuts are grown in some localities.

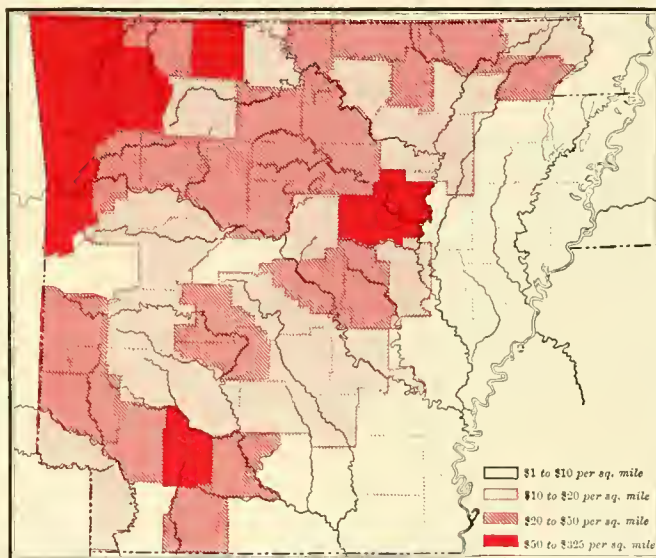


FIG. 29. The value of fruit products per square mile.



FIG. 30. Picking strawberries near Austin, Lonoke County. Fruits are grown extensively in this county and large shipments made each year.



FIG. 31. Scene on a fine farm in Prairie County near Hazen. Stock raising has become a leading industry of this county.

**Manufacturing.** While farming has always been the chief occupation of the people, in recent years much has been done toward the development of manufacturing (Fig. 40), because of the favoring natural conditions. Railroads are gradually being extended to reach every section and in proportion to its area no state in the Union has more navigable water ways, while coal in abundance is found within its borders.

Many varieties of hard woods exist in various parts of the state, and fine cotton is grown in large quantities. Therefore, with good shipping facilities and abundant fuel and raw material near at hand, Arkansas offers a wide and inviting field for the manufacture of wooden ware of all kinds and of cotton fabrics. Cotton factories have been established at Mammoth Spring, Arkadelphia, Monticello, and several other points in the state and a large and flourishing factory for the making of wooden ware is in operation at Helena. At Fort Smith furniture and wagons are manufactured extensively.

the exception of the lumber industry and the ginning of cotton, manufacturing is almost wholly confined to the five principal cities of the state.

By far the most important manufacturing industry in Arkansas is the turning out of lumber (Figs. 35 and 42) and timber products. The saw and lumber mills of the state represent a total investment of \$21,000,000 and give employment to 16,000 men, the

value of the timber products (Fig. 34) reaching annually not less than \$25,000,000.



FIG. 32. A poultry farm near Fayetteville, Washington County.



FIG. 33. Arkansas chester white hogs raised near Hot Springs.



The stand of pine in Arkansas is estimated to be more than forty-one billion feet, of which four billion feet are owned by lumbermen, and in the yellow pine section are located some of the largest sawmills in the world. In the alluvial sections are found large areas covered with cypress which is being manufactured into shingles

and lumber. Arkansas timber lands of all varieties are rapidly advancing in value, due to the depletion of the forests in the older states and to the constantly increasing demand for lumber of every sort. There are fifty establishments engaged in the manufacture of sash, doors, blinds, and similar products. (Fig. 39.) These industrial plants employ large numbers of wage earners and yearly turn out products worth very nearly \$3,000,000.

Second in importance to the lumber industry stands flour and grist milling. In recent years many factories for the manufacture of cotton-seed oil and meal have been opened in Arkansas. The

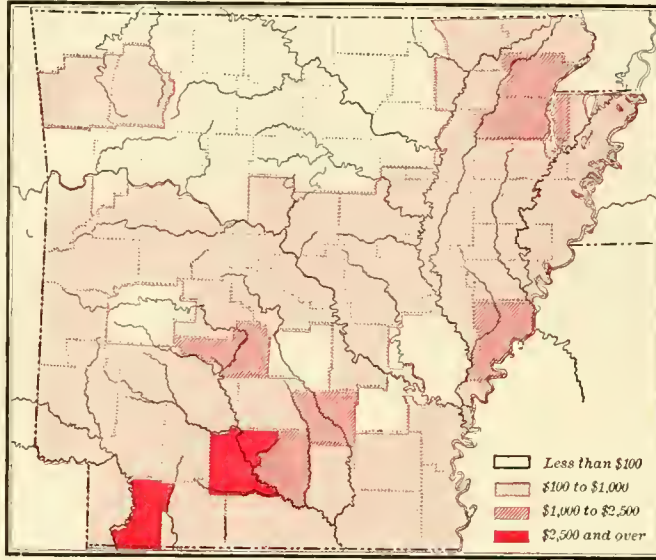


FIG. 34. The value of lumber and timber products per square mile.

substitute. Cotton-seed oil is also used as a substitute for butter and lard and in many other ways. After the extraction of the oil, the residue, called cotton-cake or meal, is used as food for cattle and as a fertilizer. In most mills the hulls are removed before the oil is expressed, and these are made into bales and sold as food for cattle. (Fig. 37.)

Arkansas has twenty-one shops for the building of cars and for general shop construction and railroad repairs. These shops give employment to large numbers of men and have an annual pay roll of more than a million dollars.

Large quantities of mussel and clam shells have been ob-



FIG. 35. A great lumber yard at Fort Smith. This is one of the chief manufacturing centers of the state.





FIG. 36. *View of a cotton gin. Here the fiber is separated from the seed and cleaned.*

tained in the waters of the Black and White rivers and in Doreheat and other lakes in Arkansas. At Devall Bluff (Fig. 41), Black Rock, and at other points along these rivers, establishments have sprung up for the manufacture of pearl buttons from the shells. Pottery is manufactured in Saline County.

**Mineral Resources and Mining.** Extensive deposits of coal, ranging in quality from lignite to semi-anthracite, exist in Arkansas and the production of coal is by far the most important mining industry in the state. The deposits are widely distributed, the coal fields (Fig. 44) extending over an area of more than 2,000 square miles. Mines (Fig. 43) are in operation in Logan, Sebastian,



FIG. 37. *Scene at an oil mill. The cattle are being fattened on the cotton-seed hulls from the mill.*

around Fort Smith and is utilized largely in manufacturing industries and for heating and lighting purposes.

Manganese has been successfully mined in Independence and Izard counties and exists in Pulaski, Montgomery, and Polk counties.

Iron is found in many parts of the state, but the ores are of low grade, and because of this, and the distance of the mines from manufacturing centers, iron cannot be mined with profit. The most important deposits are in Randolph, Sharp, Fulton, and Lawrence counties.

Valuable deposits of antimony are found in Sevier and Howard counties. It is a brittle, silver-white metal used in alloys, in medicine, and in the arts.

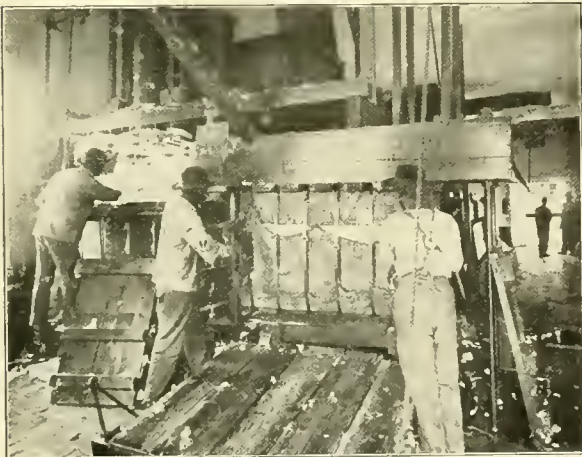


FIG. 38. *Scene in a cotton compress where the cotton is being pressed into bales.*



FIG. 39. A stave factory at Paragould.

Novaculite suitable for whetstones and hones of the best quality is obtained in Garland and adjoining counties. The fine grain and great hardness of the novaculite known as "Arkansas Stone" renders it particularly valuable to engravers, jewelers, and dentists.

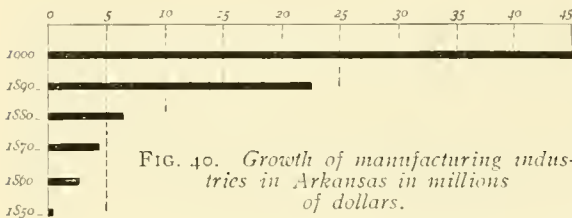


FIG. 40. Growth of manufacturing industries in Arkansas in millions of dollars.

Silver has been found, in small quantities, in Sevier, Montgomery, and Pulaski counties. The pearl fisheries of the Black and White rivers and of several lakes yield pearls of fine



FIG. 41. A button factory at Devall Bluff. Observe the huge pile of shells in the foreground out of which buttons have been cut.

quality, and recently diamonds have been discovered in Pike County.

Bauxite (Fig. 47), the principal source of aluminium, is found in large quantities in Saline and Pulaski counties, and asphalt mines are in successful operation in Pike County.

Among Arkansas mineral resources building stones are especially important. The



FIG. 42. Rafting logs down Black River to the mills.

state contains immense deposits of the finest granite. Blue and gray granite of superior quality, quarried in Pulaski County (Fig. 48), has been used in the construction of many prominent buildings. In our state the marble beds embrace an area of about 2,500 square miles. These beds lie in the Upper White River Valley in a region bounded on the south by the Boston Mountains and on the east by the flood plains of the Black River. The area in which marble occurs includes Marion, Boone, Benton, and parts of Washington, Newton, Searcy, Stone, Izard, and Baxter counties. In 1836 a block of marble weighing several tons was taken from Marble City, Newton County, to be used in the Washington Monument. This is supposed to be one of the first pieces of marble shipped out of the state. There has been a steady development of the marble industry, although as yet the product is used chiefly for local building purposes.





FIG. 43. Scene at a coal mine in Hartford, Sebastian County. A large quantity of coal is mined here.

Limestone of superior quality is found in Independence County. It is known as the Batesville Stone, and is, perhaps, the best limestone for building purposes in the state. Limestone from these quarries was used in the construction of the new State Capitol. Limestone, not susceptible of a fine polish, is found in many other localities and is commonly used in the construction of foundations, walls, abutments, piers, sidewalks, curbing, sewer caps, and stone trimmings. It is not suitable for street paving as it will not stand the wear of heavy vehicles, but it has been used with great success as a foundation for macadam roads. Many of the culverts and bridge piers in the state are built of Arkansas limestone.

Slate, of various colors and qualities, is found in large quantities in Polk County.

Lime is produced by burning limestone or marble in

furnaces or kilns. The manufacture of lime is developing steadily in Arkansas and, with its abundance of excellent limestone (Fig. 46), the Upper White River Valley should be able to supply the entire southern section of our country with lime. Lime kilns have been operated successfully in Independence, Sharp, Boone, Carroll, Benton, and Washing-



FIG. 45. A flourishing zinc mine in Boone County. This lies in the center of the great zinc district.

ton counties, and lime has also been manufactured in Pulaski, Garland, and Sevier counties.

Chalk is a soft white rock, consisting almost entirely of carbonate of lime in a slightly con-

solidated state. The school crayon, ordinarily known as chalk, is usually made of plaster of Paris and should not be confused with true chalk. Extensive beds of chalk are found in Little River County, and an area of about 900 acres is exposed in the neighborhood of Rocky Comfort. This

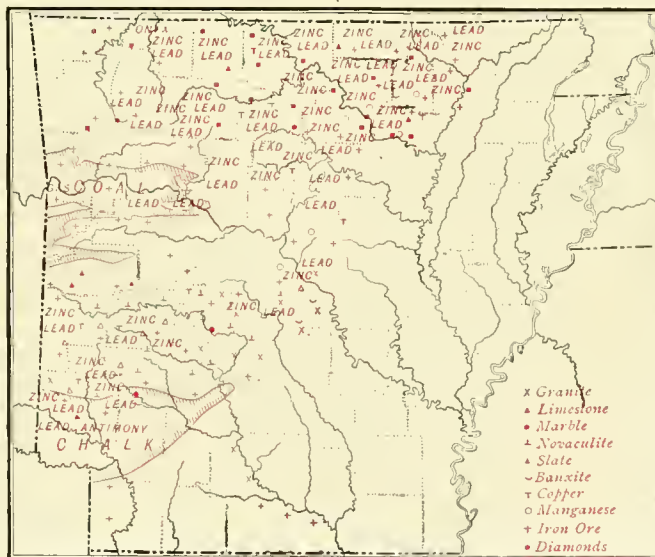


FIG. 44. The location of the leading minerals of Arkansas.





FIG. 46. A ledge of St. Joe limestone. Limestones for building and for the manufacture of lime are widely distributed in Arkansas.

chalk bed is about 500 feet in thickness and is highly valuable. It is the only limestone of its kind and quality in the United States, and in composition resembles closely the chalk of England which has so long been used in the manufacture of the famous Portland cement. (Fig. 69.) At White Cliffs, in this county, a bluff of pure white chalk more than 100 feet in height is exposed along the edge of Red River. (Fig. 49.) This is a remnant of one of the most beautiful chalk formations in North America. Inasmuch as lime is absolutely necessary to the development of all plants, chalk is extremely valuable as a means of rendering the soil more fertile and productive. Large areas are underlaid with fire, brick, and pottery clays and there are extensive deposits of white soapstone and fuller's earth.



FIG. 47. A bauxite or aluminium mine at Bauxite near Little Rock. Large deposits of this valuable ore are found in this locality.

**Mineral Springs.** Mineral waters exist in more than half of the counties of Arkansas. Their waters are often used for medicinal purposes and hence numerous health resorts have developed in the state. While most of these springs contain minerals that are help-



FIG. 48. Scene at a granite quarry in Pulaski County, near Little Rock. Inexhaustible quantities of granite lie all about this city.

ful in the treatment of various diseases, the waters of some are harmful. Such a spring is found on the Dry Fork of King River in Carroll County, and is locally known as Poison Spring, because people and animals that drink of its waters are made ill.

Sulphur waters are found in Benton, Cleburne, Dallas, Drew, Garland, Howard, Montgomery, Stone, Newton, Yell, and White counties; alum waters in Hot Springs, Drew, and Scott counties, and chalybeate waters in Cleburne and Montgomery

counties, while lithia springs of some note are found in Baxter and Hempstead counties.

Eureka Springs, Carroll County, situated in a mountainous section of great scenic beauty, are the best known springs of north Arkansas. Around these springs has grown up one of the most popular and attractive health and pleasure resorts in the state. Thousands of health-seekers from all parts of the United States visit this place

annually. For a few hours after heavy rains the flow increases slightly and the waters contain sediment, but at all other times these waters are noted for their purity and clearness. The waters of Hot Springs (Fig. 64), Garland County, have long been widely and favorably known. The Aborigines were well acquainted with their wonderful curative properties and these springs, it is said, were the fabled "Fountain of Youth" sought by Ponce de Leon. It has been estimated that they number from fifty to seventy. The waters are pure, colorless, tasteless, and without odor,

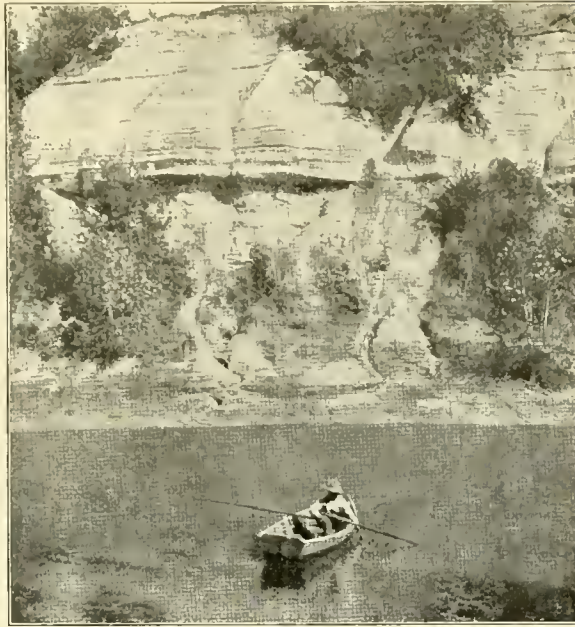


FIG. 40. A chalk bluff at White Cliffs Landing. Near by these deposits great works have been built for the manufacture of Portland cement.

and the presence of free carbonic acid causes them to sparkle and also makes them pleasant to drink. They are, however, used chiefly for bathing purposes. The average temperature of the waters is about 142 degrees Fahrenheit. This very high temperature has been attributed to several causes but, according to the eminent geologist, Dr. John C. Branner, is mostly due to the waters coming in contact with masses of hot rocks, the cool

edges of which may or may not be exposed at the surface. The United States Government has reserved the land surrounding the principal springs, and a large army and navy hospital is located near by. Thousands of people annually visit the Hot Springs for the benefit derived from the waters. It is also a popular winter resort for large numbers of vis-

itors because of its delightful climate and its superior hotel accommodations.

In Garland County about seven miles southeast of the city of Hot Springs are the Potash Sulphur Springs. Picturesque scenery, cura-



FIG. 50. A view of Siloam Springs. One of the most picturesque localities in the Ozark Plateau.





FIG. 51. A train of cars being loaded with watermelons from Greene County.

tive waters, and excellent accommodations have made this point a popular resort alike for pleasure or health seekers. The water is used chiefly for drinking purposes, and much of it is bottled and shipped to all parts of the country for medicinal uses.

**Transportation.** In early days the Mississippi and Arkansas rivers were the chief highways of travel and trade. While the railroads, which have been so large a factor in the development of the state, now afford a much more efficient means of transportation, river traffic (Fig. 52) is still important.

The first railroad in the state was built in 1856. This road, known as the Little Rock & Memphis, now forms a part of the Choctaw, Oklahoma & Gulf division of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway. It extended from Memphis to Madison and from Devall Bluff to Little Rock. Passengers were transferred across the unfinished gap from Devall Bluff to Madison either by stage or by boat down the White River (Fig. 8) and up the Mississippi. In 1872 the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern road was completed from St. Louis to Little Rock, and in 1874 was extended to Texarkana. This road and the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad were aided by land grants amounting to more than 2,600,000 acres of land.

In recent years railroad building has made rapid progress, and there are now more than 4,500 miles of road in operation in the state, an average of about 8.4 miles of railroad for every 100 square miles of area.

The leading railroads of the state are the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern, the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, and the St. Louis Southwestern. These three roads together have nearly 2,700 miles of track, or almost three-fifths of the total railroad mileage of the state.

**The State Government.** The state of Arkansas is divided into seventy-five counties, each of which is again divided into political townships. The township officers are justices of the peace and a constable. The county officers are judge, sheriff, clerk, treasurer, coroner, assessor, and surveyor. The state officers are Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney-general, Treasurer, Auditor, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Land Commissioner, and Commissioner of Mines, Manufactures, and Agriculture. Township, county, and state officers are elected by the people biennially.

The present constitution was adopted in 1874. To amend it requires a two-thirds vote in each House and a majority of the votes cast at the general election following the session of the legislature which passed the resolution submitting the amendment.



FIG. 52. Arkansas wheat on a Mississippi River boat on its way to the Gulf.

The legislature consists of a Senate of thirty-five members, elected for four years, about one-half of them being elected every two years, and a House of Representatives of one hundred members, elected for two years. The sessions begin at the Capitol (Fig. 58) in Little Rock the second Monday in January of odd-numbered years.

The Governor is the chief executive officer of the state and is Commander of the State Militia. The chief duty of the Governor is to see that the laws of the state are enforced. He is a member of the Penitentiary Board, the Board of Trustees of the State University, and the Board of Railway Assessors. He has the power to veto all legislative bills, to grant pardons, and to fill by appointment vacancies in state and county offices.

The Secretary of State keeps a record of the official Acts of the Governor and prepares for publication the Acts of the legislature. He is also Custodian of the State House and grounds, and Librarian for the state.

The Auditor is the general accountant for the state, and keeps all books, vouchers, and papers relating to the contracts of the state.

The Treasurer receives and keeps all moneys of the state, and disburses the same on warrants drawn upon the Treasurer by the Auditor.

The Attorney-general defends the interests of the state in matters before the Supreme Court, and it is also his duty to give his opinion on legal matters when called upon

to do so by any of the various officers of the state or by the legislature.

The Land Commissioner has control over the state lands and disposes of them according to law.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction has charge of all business relating to the free common schools.

The Commissioner of Mines, Manufactures, and Agriculture collects and sends out information concerning the development of mining industries, the encouragement of manufacturing enterprises, and the best methods for the cultivation of Arkansas soils.

The judicial department of the state includes the Supreme Court, Circuit courts, Chancery judges, County and Probate courts, and Township justice courts.

The Supreme Court of Arkansas consists of a Chief Justice and four Associate justices. These judges are elected for a term of eight years.

The state is divided into seventeen judicial districts, in each of which a Circuit Judge and a Prosecuting Attorney are elected. The term of the Circuit Judge is four years; the term of the Prosecuting Attorney is two years. There are eleven Chancery districts in the state, in each of which a chancellor is elected for a term of four years. All suits in equity and divorce suits are tried in the Chancery courts. Minor offences or misdemeanors are tried before justices of the peace in the justice courts.

The law-making power in cities and incor-

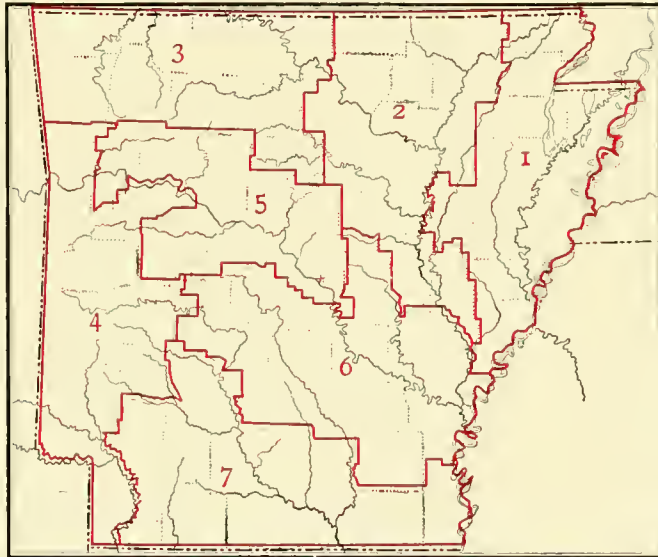


FIG. 53. *The Congressional districts of Arkansas, 1907.*



porated towns is vested in the Council, composed of the Mayor and Aldermen. In cities of the first class (those having 5,000 or more inhabitants) police judges preside over the city courts, in cities of the second class (those with a population of 2,500) and other incorporated places, Mayors serve as judges.

Arkansas has two Senators and seven Representatives in the National Congress. (Fig. 53.)

**State Charities and Penal Institutions.** The State Penitentiary is located at Little Rock, but most of the convicts are employed upon a state farm on the Arkansas River about thirty miles below Little Rock. The Legislature of 1904 made provision for a Reform School for Juvenile Offenders. This school has been established at Little Rock.

Arkansas has made generous provision for her unfortunate. All of the state charities are located in the city of Little Rock and are under the control of a board composed of the State Treasurer, who is ex-officio chairman, and seven other members, one from each con-

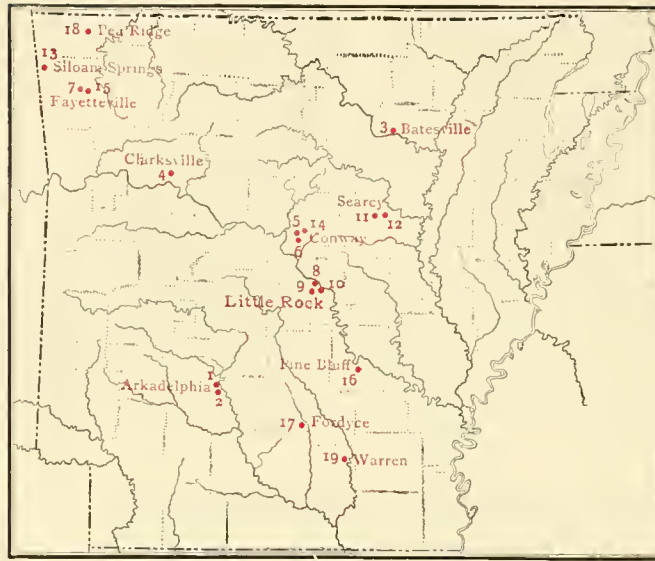


FIG. 54. The leading educational institutions of Arkansas.

gressional district, appointed by the Governor of the state. This board has entire control of the following state institutions: The Deaf-Mute Institute, the Arkansas School for the Blind, and the Arkansas Hospital for Nervous Diseases. Persons admitted to these institutions are cared for wholly at the expense of the state.

A home for disabled Confederate soldiers under state control is located at Sweet Home, six miles from the city of Little Rock. It is managed by a board of five persons appointed by the Governor.

**Education.** Liberal provision was made for public education when Arkansas became a state, but the public school system was not well organized until after the Civil War. The Constitutional Convention of 1874 provided for a state tax of not more than two mills and a district tax and adopted the following declaration with reference to free education:

"Intelligence and virtue being the safeguards of liberty and government, the state shall ever maintain a general, suitable, and

#### THE LEADING EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF ARKANSAS

##### COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

- 1 Henderson College, Methodist Episcopal, South, Arkadelphia.
- 2 Ouachita Baptist College, Baptist, Arkadelphia.
- 3 Arkansas College, Presbyterian, Batesville.
- 4 Arkansas Cumberland College, Presbyterian, Clarksville.
- 5 Central College, Baptist, Conway.
- 6 Hendrix College, Methodist Episcopal, South, Conway.
- 7 University of Arkansas, State, Fayetteville.
- 8 Arkansas Baptist College, Baptist, Little Rock.
- 9 Maddox Seminary, Non-sectarian, Little Rock.
- 10 Philander Smith College, Methodist Episcopal, Little Rock.
- 11 Galloway Female College, Non-sectarian, Searcy.

- 12 Searcy Female Institute, Non-sectarian, Searcy.
- 13 Arkansas Conference College, Methodist Episcopal, Siloam Springs.

##### PUBLIC NORMAL SCHOOLS

- 14 State Normal School, Conway.
- 15 Normal Department, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.
- 16 Branch Normal College, Pine Bluff.

##### PRIVATE NORMAL AND TRAINING SCHOOLS

- 17 Clary Training School, Fordyce.
- 18 Pea Ridge Masonic College, Pea Ridge.
- 19 Pine Bluff Presbyterian Training School, Warren.

efficient system of free schools open to all persons in the state between the ages of six and twenty-one years." There is a state tax of three and a local tax of seven mills for school purposes, and in addition a permanent school fund of over a million dollars invested in state bonds, bearing 3 per cent per annum.

The educational system of the state is organized under a State Superintendent of Public Instruction, County Examiners, and boards of directors for each school district. There were, in 1907, 533,843 children of school

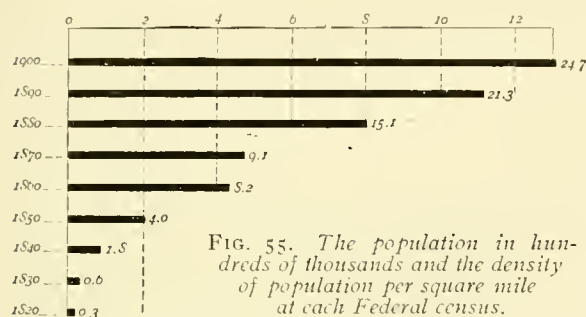


FIG. 55. The population in hundreds of thousands and the density of population per square mile at each Federal census.

age; of these 340,185 were enrolled in the schools, in charge of 8,113 teachers.

The University of Arkansas (Fig. 61), situated in Fayetteville, was organized in 1872. It is also the Agricultural and Mechanical College of the state, established under the grant of public lands made by Congress in 1862 for this purpose. The literary, scientific, and engineering departments are located at Fayetteville and have an enrollment of about 1,200 students, with nearly sixty professors and instructors. There are fourteen buildings upon the campus and the experiment station and farm adjoin the University grounds. The Medical School and the Law School, departments of the University of Arkansas, are located at Little Rock, and the Branch Normal College at Pine Bluff is maintained for the education of colored youth. The total enrollment of all the branches of the University is about 1,700.

The Arkansas Normal School was established at Conway in 1908, for the education of

teachers for the public schools. There is also a Department of Pedagogy in the State University. In addition to the state schools there are many excellent denominational institutions for higher education, and private schools and academies of high grade. (Fig. 54.)

Throughout the state separate schools are provided for white children and for negroes. In most large towns and in all cities excellent public high schools are maintained.

**Population and Rank.** In 1900 Arkansas had 1,311,000 inhabitants. With this population it ranked twenty-fifth among the states, varying but little in its position since 1820 when it stood twenty-sixth. South Carolina with 1,340,316 and Louisiana with 1,381,625 people stood just ahead of it. The density of population was 24.7 per square mile (Fig. 55), which was a little more than that of Maine, and a little less than that of the country as a whole. There are less than

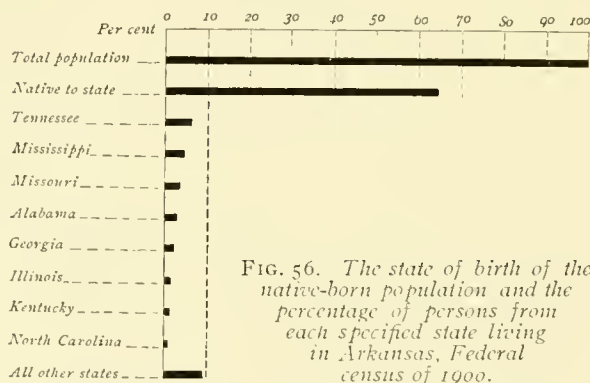


FIG. 56. The state of birth of the native-born population and the percentage of persons from each specified state living in Arkansas, Federal census of 1900.

15,000 foreign-born inhabitants in Arkansas, more than 98 per cent of the people being native born and nearly two-thirds of these native to the state. (Fig. 56.) In the distribution of the rural and urban population the state is also in marked contrast with the country as a whole, for the population of the country and of the farms continues to increase more rapidly than that of the cities and towns. In 1900 there were only eight incorporated places in the state with more than 4,000 inhabitants. (Fig. 57.)



## II. THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF CITIES AND TOWNS.

**Little Rock and Towns of the Upper Arkansas Valley.** Large areas of the most fertile fruit and farming lands in the state and the richest coal fields west of the Mississippi lie in the valley of the Arkansas. With the development of these great natural resources it followed that all up and down the valley towns sprung up and grew and flourished as trade centers.

*Little Rock*, our capital and greatest city, lies nearly in the center of the valley, as it does in the center of the state. Standing on a rugged bluff overlooking the river fifty feet below, the city has a commanding position. It now covers an area of about twelve square miles (Fig. 59), is well and handsomely built, and within the business district are found many substantial structures and attractive stores, while in every direction extend miles of well-paved streets and concrete sidewalks. Little Rock is the commercial and manufacturing center of the state. Eight railroads enter the city and these, with numerous steamboats that ply upon the river, afford excellent transportation facilities for a large and growing trade in cotton, other farm products, and manufactured goods. Among

the flourishing industrial plants of the city are included some of the largest cotton compresses in the country and extensive manufactories for cotton goods, furniture, lumber, wagons, and iron wares. Little Rock is the seat of a number of state institutions. The State Capitol (Fig. 58), which has a striking situation on an elevated plateau, is a magnificent building. The city has a fine system of public schools, and is a

prominent educational center. Among the leading private schools found here are the Arkansas Military Academy and Maddox Seminary. With an unrivaled location, handsome homes surrounded by beautiful, well-kept grounds, and with excellent street railway service, splendid schools, and attractive parks and drives, Little Rock is a delightful residential city. It is

somewhat widely known as the "City of Roses", because of the profusion in which this flower is found in all parts of the city.

On the north side of the river and directly opposite Little Rock is the progressive town of *Argenta*, which has made an astonishing growth in recent years. Here are large railroad shops employing many men. Just outside the city, on the famous "Big Rock," is Fort Logan H. Roots, where a garrison of United States soldiers is stationed. Northwest of Argenta,

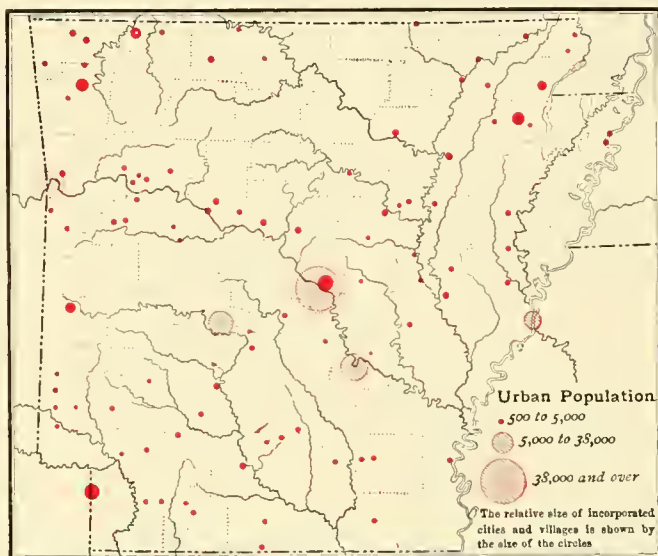


FIG. 57. The distribution of urban population in Arkansas, census of 1900.



FIG. 58. The State Capitol at Little Rock.

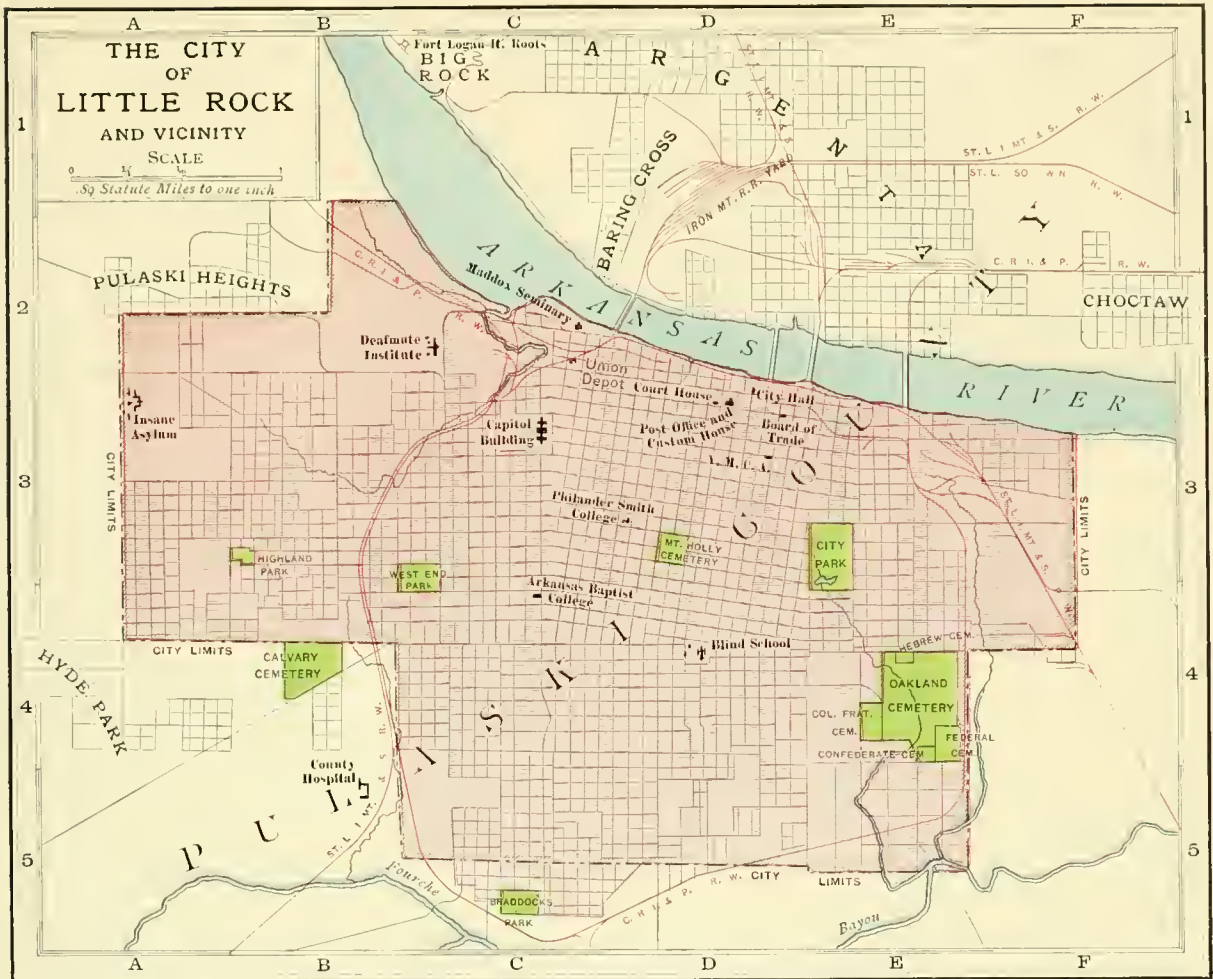


FIG. 50. A map of Little Rock.

and thirty miles from Little Rock, is *Conway*, a growing railroad town with a large trade in cotton and other farm products; it has good graded, and excellent private schools. Farther up the valley, about fifty miles from Little Rock, is *Morrilton*, the county seat of Conway County, with a cotton-seed oil mill and a woolen factory; its location gives it a large trade from both sides of the river, and it is one of the most important cotton markets in the state.

Still farther up the valley, on opposite sides of the river, are *Russellville* and *Dardanelle*. Russellville, near the north bank of the stream, lies in a fertile farming section underlaid with coal, and has a large and growing trade in cotton, small fruits, and coal. Dardanelle, Yell County,

on the south shore of the Arkansas and four miles south of Russellville, is the trade center for a district that yields large crops of cotton and cereals. The Arkansas River is crossed at this point by the only pontoon bridge in the state. Six miles west of Dardanelle is *Mount Nebo*, a delightful health resort, and fourteen miles southwest is *Danville*, the county seat of the southern, as Dardanelle is of the northern division of Yell County. North of the river in the county of Johnson is *Clarksville*, the thriving county seat of that county, where are cotton gins, saw and flouring mills, a canning factory, and foundry and machine shops; it is a railway town and ships increasing quantities of cotton, fruits, and other farm products. Clarks-





FIG. 60. A street scene in the wholesale district of Fort Smith.

ville is the seat of Arkansas Cumberland College. Fourteen miles beyond, and in the same county as Clarksville, lies *Coal Hill*, the seat of flourishing coal mines.

We are now well within the section covering the coal fields, and here among a cluster of growing towns we find, south of the river, *Paris*, the county seat of Logan, *Booneville*, a railroad division town, and *Magazine*, a busy trade center, and on the north bank of the Arkansas, *Ozark*, with various industries and, with excellent shipping facilities by rail and river, the outlet for a region that yields cotton, fruit, other farm products, and coal.

Beyond these, near the Oklahoma border, we reach *Fort Smith*, the second city in the state and the thriving town of *Van Buren*. *Fort Smith* (Fig. 60), the border city, lies on the south side of the Arkansas in a splendid agricultural region, rich also in coal and natural gas; its position on the river, and its excellent railroads furnish exceptional transportation facilities. Because of the advantages of these conditions it has become one of the most important commercial and industrial centers of the state and is destined to be the greatest business center of the great Southwest. Already Fort Smith holds second place in the wholesale and jobbing trade of the state. In recent years the city has made an astonishing gain in population and wealth. To-day it has between 25,000 and 30,000 inhabitants, or double the number it had in 1900. Fort Smith has extensive manufacturing interests and an enormous capital invested

in the coal industry of Sebastian County. Here is the largest cotton compress in the state, flourishing furniture and wagon factories, flouring and lumber mills (Fig. 35), and machine shops; and from this point increasing quantities of coal are distributed annually. A prominent railroad center in one of the most fruitful counties of the state, it has a large and constantly increasing trade in agricultural products. More than 5,000 carloads of potatoes and large shipments of vegetables, peaches, and strawberries go from Fort Smith each year to the leading markets of the country. *Van Buren* on the north side of the Arkansas, in a rich farming region famous for its fruits, is a growing commercial center, the county seat and largest town of Crawford County, and the seat of various flourishing industries.

**The Plateau Towns.** In the region of the Ozark Plateau are found a number of thriving and important towns. Among a cluster of these towns, in the extreme northwest, is *Fayetteville*, the county seat of Washington County, the seat of the State University (Fig. 61), and the largest and most important town in northwestern Arkansas. The State Agricultural Experiment Station is also located here. Great quantities of fruit are shipped from this point and here is found the largest cold-storage plant in the state. A splendid climate, pure, cool air in summer, beautiful scenery, and the advantages offered by a university town have made Fayetteville a delightful place of residence and a much-



FIG. 61. The main building of the State University, Fayetteville.

frequented summer resort. Northward, about ten miles, is *Springdale*, a great shipping point for apples, and northwestward, *Siloam Springs*, a busy village with fine mineral springs (Fig. 50) near by, and the seat of the Arkansas Conference College. Directly north from Springdale lies *Rogers*, a growing business town, with manufactures of flour and lumber, a large cold-storage plant and fruit-evaporating works; it ships large quantities of apples and strawberries. A few miles northwest of Rogers is *Bentonville*, the county seat of Benton County, with a large trade in apples and one of the largest fruit distilleries in the world. To the east, in Carroll County, in a situation of great natural beauty, is *Eureka Springs* (Fig. 62), one of the most widely-known health resorts in the state. Near by are numerous caves, some wonderful in size and beauty, and large deposits of onyx; this onyx has been largely employed in the interior finish of a great hotel on a mountain top overlooking the city. It is a county seat of Carroll County, and just beyond Kings River is *Berryville*, also a county seat of that county.

Farther to the east in a splendid agricultural country and adjacent to immense deposits of lead and zinc, is *Harrison*, the county seat of Boone County, with various flourishing industries. To the northeast in the same county is the busy town of *Lead Hill* and farther eastward is *Yellville*, the county seat of Marion County, and the principal mining town in the



FIG. 63. In the business district of Batesville. A view in Main Street.

great zinc and lead fields of northern Arkansas. Northeast lying on the border of the state, in Fulton County, is *Mammoth Spring*, a delightful residence town and pleasant health resort, which owes its name to a spring that gives rise to a large and beautiful river. Southward on the extreme edge of the plateau and on the south side of Little Red River is *Heber*, the county seat and chief town of Cleburne County and a favorite summer resort. North and east on the north shore of White River is *Batesville* (Fig. 63), Independence County. Its elevation, natural drainage, pure water, and beautiful surroundings make it one of the most attractive places in the state. It is a busy railroad town and has a constantly increasing wholesale and jobbing

trade and manufactures of woodwork, flour, and ice. Near the city are the great locks and dams (Fig. 7) built by the Federal Government in the White River. Arkansas College, one of the oldest institutions in the state, is located here. Near by are numerous deposits of marble and other limestones. The Batesville quarries furnished much of the stone used in the construction of the new Capitol.

**Towns of the Upper Ouachita Region.** Among a group of cities and towns in the uplands south of the Arkansas is *Hot Springs*



FIG. 62. A bird's-eye view of Eureka Springs, high up in the Ozark Plateau.



(Fig. 64), one of the most celebrated health and pleasure resorts on the continent and the fourth city in size in the state. It is often referred to as the "Baden-Baden" of America because in its situation and general features it so closely resembles the great German watering place. Its foremost interest is in the thermal or hot springs, found here. These springs, famous for the healing properties of their waters, lie in the center of a Government Reservation consisting of four sections of land, set off by Congress, in 1832. One free bath house, that is under the direct control of the Government, and a large number of bath houses belonging to private owners, who pay the Government a certain sum annually for the use of the waters, have been built to accommodate the ever-increasing throngs that visit the springs. The manufacturing interests are limited to a number of planing mills and a wood-working plant. Surrounded by scenery of unusual beauty, substantially and attractively built, with many well-appointed hotels and excellent boarding houses, Hot Springs justly deserves its preëminent position among the health and pleasure resorts of the world.

Midway between Hot Springs and Little Rock is *Benton*, the county seat and chief town of Saline County, with flourishing sawmills and cotton gins. Southwest of Benton and about twelve miles from Hot Springs, is the thriving town of *Malvern*, a railway town, principal

trade center, and county seat of Hot Springs County, where are saw, shingle, and planing mills, and a large plant for the manufacture of brick. At the head of navigation on the Ouachita River, and due south of Hot Springs, is the growing town of *Arkadelphia*. It lies on the extreme edge of the plateau, has fine natural drainage and good water power utilized in the manufacture of lumber and cotton, and is the site of a foundry and machine shops. It has excellent shipping facilities and a good trade in cotton and other farm products. Westward about thirty miles is the busy town of *Pike City*, the county seat and leading business center of Pike County. Northwestward in Polk County is the prosperous and growing town of *Mena*. Founded in 1895, Mena has made an astonishing growth and to-day is the second city in this region and one of the most progressive in the state. Surrounded by a splendid agricultural country rich also in zinc and lead, manganese and slate, it has a large and growing trade in cotton, fruit, and other farm products, and various flourishing industries, including large lumber mills and productive zinc mines.

**Towns of the Eastern Lowlands.** Within the basin of the Mississippi lie the richest lowlands of the United States, and here, in Arkansas, are found *Pine Bluff* and *Helena*, the third and fifth cities in the state. Pine Bluff is on the Arkansas about forty miles southeast of Little Rock and is one of the chief manufacturing

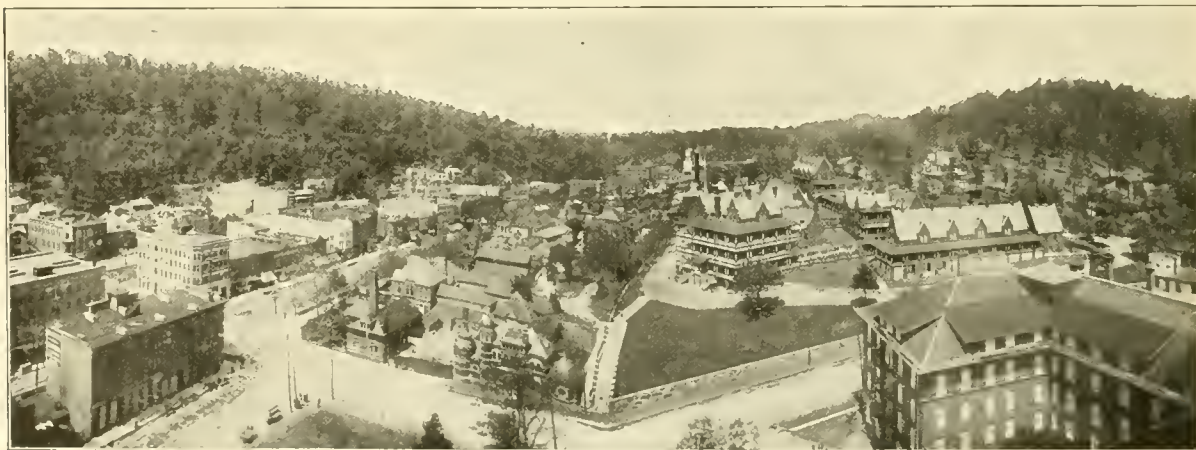


FIG. 64. A general view of the city of Hot Springs. This famous resort has a beautiful situation in a narrow valley surrounded by picturesque ranges of forest-clad mountains.

and commercial centers of the state. Among its industrial interests are extensive lumber mills, large cotton compresses, and cotton-seed oil mills. It has an extensive trade by rail and a large river traffic, a line of packets connecting it with Memphis. On the opposite side of the river, and about thirty miles southeast of Pine Bluff, is *Arkansas Post*, the oldest settlement in the state.

*Arkansas City*, on the Mississippi River, is the chief city in the southeastern tier of counties, with large cotton and lumber interests and good shipping facilities by rail and river. Westward, in Drew County, is *Monticello*, the seat of cotton manufactures and with a thriving trade in cotton, lumber, and fruits; and directly south, *Hamburg*, the leading town and county seat of Ashley County. Northeast of Pine



FIG. 66. A street scene in Jonesboro.

tion known as *Crawley's Ridge*, the progressive town of *Forrest* (Fig. 65), a railroad center with a good trade, and with large stave and other factories and cotton-seed oil mills; and farther north the enterprising town of *Wynne*, the leading railroad and business center and the county seat of Cross County.



FIG. 65. A view of Forrest looking from St. Francis County Court House.

Bluff, in Arkansas County, is the prosperous and growing town of *Stuttgart*, with coal, oil, and gas interests and directly north *Lonoke*, a flourishing railroad town, the county seat of Lonoke County where the rice industry centers, and where there is a Government experiment station.

*Helena* is on the Mississippi, and is the most important city in the extreme eastern part of the state. Lying in the richest cotton-producing region in Arkansas, it follows that it has a large trade by rail and river with the towns and plantations all up and down the valley. Among its flourishing industries is included the largest plant for the manufacturing of wooden ware in the state.

Northwest from Helena is *Marianna*, a busy trade and industrial center in Lee County, with cotton gins and cotton-seed oil and lumber mills; directly north of Marianna, on an eleva-

on *Crawley's Ridge*, in a splendid fruit and gardening region, and its thriving industrial interests include barrel, stave (Fig. 67), and heading works, basket handle and brick factories, and sawmills. It is a railroad town with good shipping facilities and does a large wholesale and retail business. *Paragould* (Fig. 68) is a leading railroad center with wood-working, brick,



FIG. 67. A hard wood and stave mill, Jonesboro.





FIG. 68. A view of Pruet Street, the leading thoroughfare of Paragould.

and concrete plants, lumber mills, stave (Fig. 39), pin, and canning factories, and a grain elevator.

Among a number of thriving towns in the valleys of the White and Cache is *Newport* on the east bank of White River and at the crossing of two railroads, where are thriving manufactures; pearl-bearing mussel shells are found in the river, and here in recent years pearl fishing has attracted much attention. Northward, on the west shore of the Black, is *Black Rock*, in Lawrence County, with cotton gins and lumber mills, and still farther north on the same side of the river, *Corning*, county seat and chief trade center of Clay County. South of Newport and also on the east bank of White River is *Augusta*, the county seat of Woodruff County, where is located a factory for making pearl buttons from mussel shells. To the west is *Searcy*, the county seat of White County, famous for its white sulphur springs and its excellent educational advantages; it has a good trade in cotton, strawberries, and vegetables.

Southeast, on the west shore of the White, is *Devall Bluff*, where, as at Augusta, pearl buttons (Fig. 41) are made and where there is a large oar factory (Fig. 8) from which it is said the navies of many countries receive their supplies of oars. Beyond, on Cache River where it enters the White, is *Clarendon*, the chief town and county seat of Monroe, with a stave and an oar factory and a foundry and machine shops; and north, in the same county, the flourishing town of *Brinkley*, where are saw and planing mills, a cotton-seed oil mill, stave and heading factories and machine shops.

*Texarkana*, the chief city of the southwestern

tier of counties, lies on the border of the state adjacent to Texarkana, Texas, and industrially and commercially the two cities really form one community. Many flourishing industries and numerous railroads are found here, and the city has a large trade. Near by, coal and pottery clay are found. There are wood-working plants, furniture factories, a wagon factory, machine and creosote works, oil mills, and a pottery plant.

Northeast of Texarkana, in Hempstead County, is *Hope* with thriving manufactures and a large trade in peaches; near by is a fine lithia spring. Beyond Hope, in a region rich in minerals, is *Prescott*, the chief town of Nevada County, a center of lumber industries, and farther away in Clark County, the thriving town of *Gurdon*. *De Queen*, a growing industrial town in Sevier County, north of Texarkana, has large lumber mills, other industries, and a flourishing trade.

East and south from Texarkana is *Stamps*, the leading business center of Lafayette County, with car shops and large lumber mills; southeast, *Magnolia*, the county seat of Columbia, with a large trade in lumber and cotton, and in the adjoining county the prosperous town of *Eldorado*. Northward on the Ouachita River and at the crossing of two railroads is *Camden* (Fig. 69), the center of flourishing industries and an important trade. Northeast of Camden is *Fordyce*, the chief town and the leading business center of Dallas County.



FIG. 69. Looking south in Adams Street, Camden.











